

## Your Ticket To Work: What You Need To Know To Keep It Working For You

Congratulations on your participation in the Ticket to Work program. The goal of the Ticket to Work is to help you go back to work if you want to, or to help you earn more money if you're already working. To help you succeed in the program, we provide several incentives to you.

First, your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash benefits may continue while you work, depending on your earnings. Second, your Medicare may continue for at least eight and one-half years after you start to work if you are still disabled. Your Medicaid also may continue, depending on the state in which you live and the amount of your earnings. Finally, we will not review your disability as long as you are making progress in the Ticket to Work program. (If we started a disability review before you began participating, we will finish that review.) How we determine if you are making progress is described below.

### Reviewing Your Employment Plan

Your participation in the Ticket to Work program began when you gave your ticket to an employment network or State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. With the help of the network or agency, you developed an employment plan. Your progress in achieving the goals of your employment plan will be reviewed from time to time while you are in the program.

MAXIMUS Inc., a company that is helping us manage the Ticket to Work program, will conduct the reviews of your progress. The first review will take place after you have been in the program for two years. After that, MAXIMUS will conduct reviews every 12 months.

### Making Progress In The Ticket To Work Program

For the first two years you participate in the Ticket to Work program, we will assume you are making progress with your employment plan unless we hear otherwise from your employment network or State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

In the third year of your participation, you must work and have a minimum level of earnings in three months out of 12. The minimum level is based on the "substantial gainful activity" level discussed below.

In the fourth year, you have to work six months out of 12 at the same level.

Starting in the fifth year, you have to work six months out of 12 and earn enough in those months to stop your Social Security disability and SSI benefits. This level will vary depending on your individual situation.

If, based on the criteria listed above, you are not making progress in the Ticket to Work program, we may begin a medical review to see if you still are disabled. You still may participate in the Ticket to Work program while we review your disability. Whenever you think you are making progress again, you should write to MAXIMUS, who will make a decision on your progress.

If you disagree with MAXIMUS' decision, you can ask us to review it. You have to ask us for a review of the decision within 30 days after the date MAXIMUS sends you their decision. While we are making our decision, we will not begin a medical review of your disability. Once we make our decision, we will send you a letter explaining it.

## How Your Earnings May Affect Your Benefits

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If you are working and have substantial earnings, we may stop your cash benefits. We can start your benefits again quickly when your income drops or you stop work. For Social Security beneficiaries, this earnings level is called the “substantial gainful activity” level. It increases each year with increases in national wage levels. (For information on the substantial gainful activity level for the current year, call MAXIMUS at the number below.) SSI benefits are reduced as earnings increase until your benefits are completely eliminated by your earnings.

## For More Information

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If you have questions about the Ticket to Work program, you should call the Ticket Program Manager, MAXIMUS Inc., at 1-866-968-7842 (TTY 1-866-833-2967). For information about other work incentives, you also should visit [www.ssa.gov/work](http://www.ssa.gov/work). You also may request a copy of our work incentives publication, *Working While Disabled: How We Can Help*, by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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